

## Where Ignorance is Bliss

According to the Gallup Poll of Canada, that tireless investigator of public ignorance, half the voters of Canada do not know, or at least cannot put into words, anything for which the Progressive Conservatives or the Liberals stand. Their ignorance about the CCF and Social Credit parties is even greater. Some 60 per cent do not know anything about the CCF and 70 per cent are in the dark about Social Credit. In Western Canada, where these parties have their main strength, the percentages of ignorance are 52 and 60 respectively.

At first glance, these figures do not reveal much on which an enlightened democracy can pride itself; but must be remembered that the poll was taken before the

election campaign was really under way. Before March 31 nearly every voter will have been exposed to some form of political education and will have made up his or her mind about whom to vote for.

That does not imply that the average voter will then be able to put into words what he has voted for. He will, as usual, vote in a blind faith that he is doing his duty and that greater powers will carry on from there. The chances are that he will still be inarticulate about what differentiates the parties. Since all the speakers for all the parties will have been promising him things, with only slight differences of degree, his ignorance and inarticulateness may be taken as an expression of political wisdom.

## The Re-covering Miracle

Longfellow once wrote "If Spring came but once in a century, instead of once a year, or burst forth with the sound of an earthquake, and not in silence, what wonder and expectation there would be in all hearts to behold the miraculous, and the perpetual exercise of God's power seems less wonderful that its withdrawal would be."

Friday is March 21 indicating the first official approach of that wonderful Spring season. It might be difficult to tell from the weather of tomorrow and the next week just whether it will arrive or not, but officially it will.

As Longfellow so aptly indicated we grow accustomed to the changing seasons

and often forget the miracles of their coming. But Spring is a long looked for season as it heralds the return of warm sunshine and bright days outside after the long winter.

The trees will begin to show buds, the grass will adopt a brighter green, the flowers will begin to push up, the fields will be prepared for their cycle of growth, children will start playing alleys and jacks, roller skates will make their appearance, sidewalks will be swept of their winter sand and the signs of the approaching season will be welcomed indeed.

We're looking forward to the spring weather and we're glad it's officially here. We imagine you are too.

## Change for the Sake of Change

It is interesting to note the recommendation at the last meeting of county council that the county adopt the D.M.A. manual for assessing purposes.

The reasons given are not new since the subject appears annually and for the past few years has met with little favor since it requires a fair size expenditure to affect the change from the present system.

Added to that is the fact that the present system has not been proven inadequate since its adoption only a few years ago during which some costly proceedings were necessary to have it completed.

The big reason for the recommendation appears to be that Burlington and Oakville plan to use the D.M.A. manual and there

just can't be two systems operating in the one county.

We're not opposed to change by any means but it certainly seems foolish to initiate change just for the sake of change. There is always the suggestion that in a short time adoption of the new system will probably be mandatory under the regulations of the provincial department.

The present system of assessment was established on a pattern arrived at by the provincial department and has so far proven quite adequate.

It will be interesting to see what action the various councils take and the result of their action in achieving a uniform pattern of assessment.

## Notes and Comments

In a special feature article, the Christian Science Monitor pays tribute to the home town weekly newspapers of the United States. It states: "Well over 75,000,000 persons—some estimates range as high as two out of every three Americans—read such papers. They are about nine times as numerous as their big city cousins, the metropolitan dailies. And they are more than nine times as diverse. Governor Ribicoff of Connecticut recently said: "When I want to find out what the majority of the people of the state are thinking, I go to the community

papers . . . small community weeklies are certain to grow and have an increasing influence on state and local government, because of their closeness to the everyday affairs of people". Increasing cost of newsprint remains a concern of many weeklies and the publisher of one of them wrote his newsprint supplier. He said the cost of paper was so high he was going to start printing on bed sheets. That way, he said, he could just collect his old papers at the end of the week, launder them, and start printing all over again. —Bolton Enterprise.

## Brief Comment

### DECISIVE RESULT

Canadian electors now have responsibility for deciding whether Canada will be better off under a Conservative or a Liberal regime. Important thing is that balloting on March 31 should render a decisive verdict on this question. —Bonnyville (Alta.) Tribune.

### VITAL LINK

If the rail line to Pine Point follows any route not originating in the Peace River country, the development of this area will be set back many years. We cannot be patient and believe that the government will see this without our telling them. —Grande Prairie (Alta.) Herald-Tribune.

### CANADIAN PRODUCTS

If Florida oranges are scarcer and higher in price we can always eat those delicious Canadian apples, and there is no better drink than our tomato juice. When we buy the Canadian products we are helping the industries which help us. —Picton (Ont.) Gazette.

### MADE IN CANADA

We must purchase more Made-in-Canada products. We must increase the processing of all kinds of goods in Canadian factories. Only in this way can we enlarge the opportunities for stable, year-round productive employment. —Campbellton (N.B.) Tribune.



—Photo by Esther Taylor

## "Seasonable Symptom"



Highway signs are usually brief enough but one that catches my attention for its imaginative approach is located near Toronto's Queen E. entrance. The sign directs "Squeeze Right". That seems to say so much more than the multi-word phrase like "Pavement Narrow Ahead" or a similar word combination.

Incidentally, if you're interested in seeing the full extent of the Minor Hockey programs being carried on in this part of the country, take a look at the all-day Minor Hockey tournament scheduled for Milton Arena on Saturday.

Watching a few minutes of the Ed Sullivan show on Sunday night.

I noticed the appearance of the Lincan hockey team from Ontario. I had just finished reading the Exeter paper that told some interesting information back of that appearance. The paper was reporting the team still needed \$400 of the necessary \$1,000 to make the New York trip. It seems the coach had phoned Ed Sullivan some time ago, suggesting the appearance of the Irish team of kids. Ed had agreed it would be fine if the team was in the area at the time of the show. The \$1,000 was to fly them to the area.

Noticing the brief appearance on the TV screen, I couldn't help but think how disappointed some parents would be in not even seeing the whole team. But that's the way it goes.

Just in case you feel your single vote is really not important come March 31, reflect on the fact that in 51 ridings last June, a switch of 500 votes would have changed the result.

Still on the election front, did you notice the CBC street corner quiz of a dozen people, all adults? Only one could name the four parties correctly. Not one could name the four leaders. One tabbed Mr. St. Laurent as the present Prime Minister and another had never heard of Diefenbaker. The privilege to vote is accompanied by the responsibility to make an effort to understand the issues at stake.

This Ontario seems to be quite a province. You know, it has some 17% of Canada's industrial labor force and produces about 50% of value of Canada's total manufacturing production.

Licence line-ups last week were common throughout the country and apparently the department has made its decision to stick to the deadline it announced. Now at least people will believe them when the deadline is announced.

Humdrum isn't where you live or what you do, it's what you are.

The mud is just about the right consistency for marble playing and I've noticed the first "sharps" complete with rubber boots and ready for action. It's funny how one can always count on the alleys to show up when the first rays of Spring sun appear.

A prominent businessman was asked to describe an expert. "An expert," he said, "is a man wearing a tie and an important look on his face, who knows how to complicate simplicity."

Perhaps I wasn't in the right place but I didn't notice too much of the "wearin' of the green" on Monday.

Noticed where vandals have been removing parts of telephone receivers from the pay phone booths. Apart from the seriousness of the theft itself, it could spell disaster if the phone was required in an emergency and someone had removed the receiver to leave it useless. It's to be hoped those who are removing the parts may realize the seriousness of their action.

If you've never seen a well drilled, it's worth a trip to the Walker Lane site of the town's present drilling operation. And if you think well-drilling is simple work, take a look at those 36 inch casings that are driven down the shaft. It's no easy job to get them properly placed as I noticed last week when the first were being placed in position.

Milton will be able to welcome another public building in the new provincial school for the deaf to be built south of the Manor. There aren't too many details available on it yet but with the announcement at this time of the year, construction could be possible during the summer and fall.

## THE GOOD OLD DAYS

### 50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Canadian Champion dated March 19, 1908.

Citizens of Milton have expressed their approval of the Commission's condemnation of the town hall as a fire trap and demand that it be made safe by the construction of proper exits. The suggestion of a wide fire-proof stairway opening directly from the auditorium on the north side of the building instead of fire escapes, is approved, but some would like two such stairways on opposite sides of the building. The town council will meet next week. It is to be hoped they will give due consideration to the subject and having done so will act quickly.

Town council: On Monday four candidates were nominated to fill the vacancy in the town council caused by Mr. McCannell's resignation. They were J. M. Bastede, J. H. Peacock, J. S. McCannell and R. Burling. Mr. Burling was the only one to qualify, and in due course was declared elected by acclamation. He has already served as town councillor and will not be new to his work.

Halton Conservatives: There will be a convention of the Halton Liberal-Conservative Association at the town hall, Milton, on Saturday 21st. A candidate will be selected for the coming provincial election and addresses will be delivered by David Henderson, M.P. and Dr. A. W. Nixon, M.P.P.

Halton Farmers' Institute: There was a fairly large turnout at the Milton meeting of this organization on Tuesday but not so large as it should have been. Dr. H. G. Reed of Georgetown delivered an address on the horse and conducted a class in horse judging, giving valuable instructions on the points to be considered.

Scarlet fever: There are several cases of scarlet fever in town, though none are reported to be serious. The worst forms of the disease may be communicated from the mildest and the Board of Health is taking the necessary measures to prevent the contagion as much as possible.

### 20 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Canadian Champion dated March 17, 1928.

The 13th power bill of Georgetown Hydro Electric Commission gave a surplus of \$3,365.66.

Motorcyclist badly injured: Fred Bolingbroke, of Milton, was badly injured on Saturday when the throttle of the motorcycle he was driving became stuck, and in attempting to round a curve at the east end of Main St., the machine skidded off the highway and turned over in some loose gravel, pinning the driver under the motorcycle. His leg was badly cut around the knee cap. Dr. George D. Denton attended him, 30 stitches being required to close the wound.

Palermo players win trophy: Palermo Juniors, presenting the play, "The Valiant", won the W. I. Dick trophy last night in the Halton County junior drama festival in the Milton high school auditorium. Competing also were Milton and Acton junior amateur players.

Town council: At Tuesday evening's regular meeting of Milton town council, town clerk Blain read a letter of thanks from a relief recipient, commending the relief committee for its efficiency and understanding of the problems confronting it. It was the first letter of thanks the council had received from a recipient and the clerk, who is chairman of the relief committee, said other relief recipients might do as well as the woman writer. A grant of \$20 was made to the Salvation Army and the Music Festival Committee was granted \$10.00.

Guelph protest is allowed: Guelph, March 14: Protest of the Guelph Juvenile hockey club against alleged use of ineligible players by Milton in a recent playoff series, has been approved and Guelph will move into the second round Ontario Juvenile Hockey Association playdowns against Waterloo tomorrow.

Dr. J. H. Stead, chief coroner for the county of Halton and Oakville, underwent an operation for appendicitis on Friday. He is doing nicely.

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